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SINO-SOVIET ALLIANCE TREATY: PEKING WILL END IT

ANNCR:

CHINESE VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S STATEMENT THIS WEEK THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL TERMINATE ITS ALMOST THIRTY-YEAR-OLD ALLIANCE TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN NINETEEN EIGHTY CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO OBSERVERS OF PEKING-MOSCOW RELATIONS. VOA CORRESPONDENT EDWARD CONLEY HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM TOKYO.

VOICE:

TENG HSIAO-PING'S REMARK TO A VISITING GROUP OF SENIOR JAPANESE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL WRITERS IN PEKING MARKS THE THIRD TIME IN A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR THAT CHINA HAS SAID THE SINO-SOVIET ALLIANCE TREATY WILL BE TERMINATED BY PEKING EFFECTIVE IN APRIL NINETEEN EIGHTY. ON EACH OCCASION THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO AND REPORTED BY JAPANESE GROUPS VISITING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

THE MOSCOW-PEKING TREATY, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT IN APRIL NINETEEN FIFTY, GOVERNS SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, INCLUDING SOVIET ECONOMIC AID TO CHINA. IN THE PACT THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO AGREED TO TAKE JOINT ACTION AGAINST WHAT THEY TERMED ANY REVIVAL OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM. SINCE THEN, IN THE COURSE OF IDEOLOGICAL SPARRING BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNIST GIANT STATES, SOVIET AID TO CHINA HAS ENDED AND, ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE, PEKING'S RELATIONS WITH JAPAN HAVE GRADUALLY IMPROVED -- REACHING A PEAK LAST MONTH WITH THE SIGNING OF A CHINESE-JAPANESE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.

ONE OF JAPAN'S MAJOR CONCERNS HAD FOCUSED ON THE SINO-SOVIET ALLIANCE PACT AND ITS CALL FOR POSSIBLE JOINT ACTION AGAINST JAPAN. JUST ONE YEAR AGO, AS PEKING WAS TRYING TO WOO TOKYO INTO SIGNING A PEACE TREATY, VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING TOLD A GROUP OF JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT PEKING'S AGREEMENT WITH MOSCOW HAD ALREADY LOST ITS EFFECT AND WOULD FORMALLY EXPIRE IN NINETEEN EIGHTY. THAT SAME MESSAGE WAS PASSED TO JAPANESE OFFICIALS DURING LAST MONTH'S CHINA-JAPAN TREATY TALKS IN PEKING AND NOW IT HAS BEEN RESTATED BY MISTER TENG TO JAPANESE JOURNALISTS.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE SINO-SOVIET PACT THE TREATY IS AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED FOR FIVE YEARS UNLESS ONE OF THE SIGNATORIES NOTIFIES THE OTHER OF ITS INTENTION TO ABROGATE ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL. THAT, ACCORDING TO VICE PREMIER TENG, WILL BE DONE BY PEKING AT THE APPOINTED TIME, APRIL NINETEEN SEVENTY NINE. THE ABROGATION OF THE SINO-SOVIET ALLIANCE TREATY AT THIS POINT SEEMS TO BE MAINLY PSYCHOLOGICAL. AS TENG HSIAO-PING PUT IT ONE YEAR AGO, THE PACT HAD ALREADY LOST ITS EFFECT. BUT THE PACT'S DEMISE WILL LIKELY BE SEEN AS ANOTHER OBVIOUS CRACK IN RELATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PEKING.

MISTER TENG'S REMARK WAS GREETED WITH BANNER HEADLINES IN JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS, BUT OFFICIALLY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON IT. NEITHER, FOR THAT MATTER, HAS CHINA. THE OFFICIAL CHINESE NEWS ACCOUNT OF MISTER TENG'S WEDNESDAY MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE PRESS DELEGATION DID NOT REPORT HIS REMARKS CONCERNING CHINA'S INTENTION TO END ITS TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN NINETEEN EIGHTY.